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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF KAZAKSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration on Tajikistan, issued on 19 January 1996 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Permanent Representative of
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Annex

Joint Declaration on Tajikistan

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, participating in the work of the Council of Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), affirmed their strong conviction that a settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan can be achieved only by political means, through dialogue between the parties and on the basis of compromises and mutual concessions. They express their readiness to continue to do all they can to sustain the inter-Tajik negotiating process under United Nations auspices.

The first stage of the fifth round of inter-Tajik talks, held at the end of last year at Ashkhabad, was unfortunately not promising. In this connection the heads of foreign policy departments of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan expect the negotiators to begin the second stage of the round at the earliest opportunity and to use that opportunity for intensive work to identify a real formula of national reconciliation and to create an effective mechanism for the establishment of peace and concord in Tajikistan.

The Ministers emphasized that one essential prerequisite for successful advancement of the negotiating process is strict compliance with the provisions of the Tehran Agreement of 17 September 1994 on a provisional cease-fire and the cessation of other hostilities, commitment to which was reaffirmed by the parties at Ashkhabad.

The Ministers expressed their concern at the continuing tension on the Tajik-Afghan border as a result of further shelling incidents and attacks on frontier posts and positions. In this context they noted the important role played by the Russian frontier forces and the Kazak and Kyrgyz units in ensuring that the border is reliably protected and secured.

The heads of foreign policy departments stressed the highly topical nature of interaction within the framework of the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces (CPF), whose presence in Tajikistan remains a vital factor in curbing the conflict and stabilizing the situation in the country. In this light, the decision adopted at Moscow by the Council of CIS Heads of State to extend the length of stay of CPF in Tajikistan for a further period of six months until 30 June 1996 assumes great importance. The Ministers noted that one highly important condition for the further presence of CPF in that country would be effective action by the conflicting parties towards a full settlement of the situation in Tajikistan.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan hope that the Government of Tajikistan will, during the aforementioned period, take the measures required to achieve peace and stability in Tajik territory.

The heads of foreign policy departments of the five States urge the Tajik opposition to recognize the existing Government of Tajikistan, to abstain from military action and acts of terrorism and to pursue political dialogue with a view to achieving concord and tranquillity in Tajikistan.

Noting the positive role of the United Nations in matters relating to a Tajik settlement, the Ministers welcomed the decision to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, adopted by the Security Council on 14 December 1995.

The Ministers reaffirmed that their countries would do all in their power, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with the States attending the inter-Tajik talks as observers, to facilitate national reconciliation and concord in Tajikistan and to promote a productive prolongation of the inter-Tajik dialogue for this purpose.

19 January 1996